

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 14, 2007

Her Excellency Ana Ligia Mixco Sol de Saca
First Lady of the Republic
Presidential Palace
San Salvador

Dear Mrs. Saca:

I am delighted to send greetings to each person attending the Fourteenth Conference of First Ladies, Spouses and Representatives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas!

The theme for this year's Conference, "Building a Society for All Ages," highlights a topic that affects families and communities in each of our countries -- the aging of our citizens. We must prepare for aging populations by determining how our governments, communities and individuals will care for our loved ones, and most importantly, ensure their dignity and independence as they age.

In 2001 President Bush began the New Freedom Initiative to remove barriers to community living for people with disabilities. The Administration is working to integrate health and human services systems, strengthen and modernize health insurance programs for the elderly, improve access to health care, expand prescription drug benefits, and prevent diseases. Our countries share the challenges of financing our long-term care services and ensuring access to high quality care for our aging populations. The United States is working to address these issues by placing an emphasis on providing care in the community, and giving people more choices and control over their care options.

The exchange of ideas and information at this conference can help find solutions to the issues regarding aging. I look forward to learning about your discussions and send my best wishes for a successful and enjoyable conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a stylized "B".